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Jacksonville State University

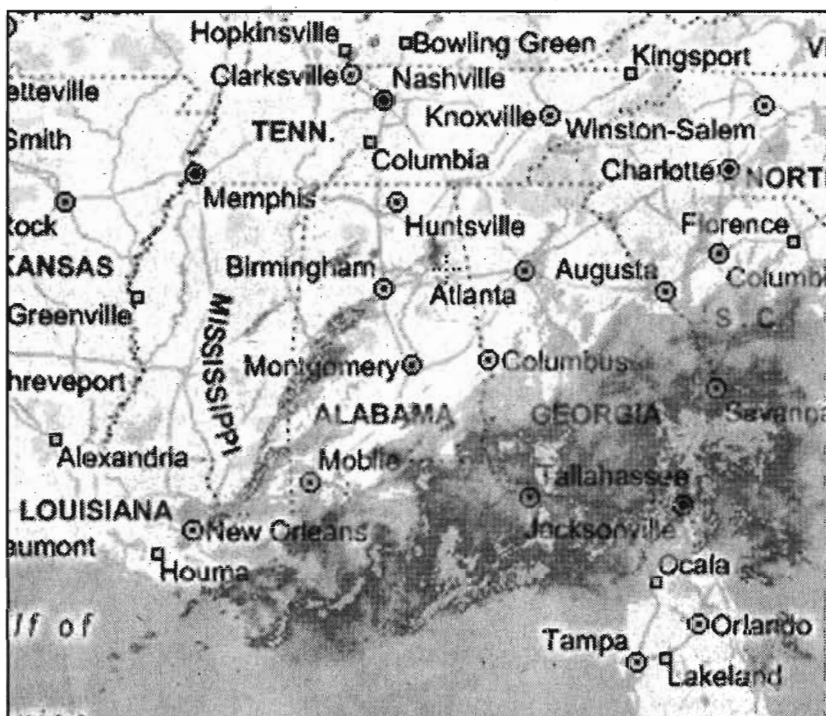
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Storms roll again over flooded, soggy Southeast



A radar image taken Tuesday as more storms covered the southeast. Screen capture by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

By Jay Reeves
AP Writer

GENEVA, Ala. (AP) — Thunderstorms accompanied by the threat of tornadoes rolled across the already soaked Southeast on Tuesday, raising new worries for residents still recovering from a weekend deluge that flooded hundreds of homes, washed out roads and forced evacuations.

Tornado warnings were issued for points in southeast Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Georgia, and the National Weather Service forecast more thunderstorms in the region Wednesday and Thursday.

Southern Mississippi residents were still cleaning up from tornadoes and flooding as disaster officials warned them to brace for another round of potentially severe storms that could fatten swollen rivers. In southeast Alabama, volunteers and Houston County jail inmates filled more than 2,500 sandbags for people to place in front of their homes to keep out water.

"We've had more than 300 houses flooded countywide," sheriff's Lt. Jeff Carlisle said. "It's everywhere, even in places where it's never flooded before. Every low-lying area in the county is flooded."

Schools were closed in one Mississippi county and more than a dozen residents in Alabama were staying at a motel. The problems could worsen.

In their 40-plus years running Stinson's Grocery in Geneva, Ann and Lloyd Stinson said they've never seen so much rain in such a short time. Their store is on a small hill across from the Pea River, which overflowed its banks and washed out a road that runs next to it.

Their son's photography studio downtown was soaked with about a foot of flood waters over the weekend.

"Saturday afternoon people were pulling out carpets and cleaning up all over downtown," Ann Stinson said. "What's so frustrating is to

See "Storms," page 2

Sorority raises autism awareness

By Cecily Sanders
Staff Writer

World Autism Awareness Day shines a light on autism as a growing global health crisis. World Autism Awareness Day or (WAAD) activities help to increase and develop world knowledge of the autism epidemic and give information regarding the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention. Additionally, this day celebrates the unique talents and skills of people with autism. By bringing together autism organizations all around the world, World Autism Awareness Day is a chance to give a voice to the millions of individuals worldwide who are undiagnosed, misunderstood and looking for help.

Autism is a complex neuro-biological disorder that typically lasts throughout a person's lifetime. Autism impairs a person's ability to communicate and relate to others. It is also associated with rigid routines and repetitive behaviors, such as obsessively arranging objects or following very specific routines. Symptoms can range from very mild to quite severe.

Until now, Alpha Xi Delta's philanthropy has been "Choose Children". However, today Alpha Xi Delta is pleased to announce their national fraternity's new partnership with Autism Speaks. Autism Speaks is the world's largest autism advocacy organization, dedicated to increasing awareness of autism, to funding research into the causes, prevention and treatment of autism, and to advocating for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. Since its inception, Autism Speaks has committed an unprecedented \$128 million in new research funding through 2014 to uncover the cause(s), prevention, treatments

See "Autism," page 2

Changing of the guard

For Nix, end of semester is bittersweet

By Kira Reeves
Staff Writer

Throughout life, we all experience a transition.

A transition for some may be a welcomed one. For Jennifer Nix, the current Student Government Association President, it is bittersweet.

Nix, a senior at JSU, is preparing to relinquish her title as SGA President. The ever approaching swearing in of Bryant Whaley brings a never ending "to do" list. Whaley has been shown Nix's personal files regarding campus events, meetings, etc., and also introduced to the SGA office and everyone involved. Although politics is not in Jennifer Nix's future, she says she has enjoyed the past year as president.

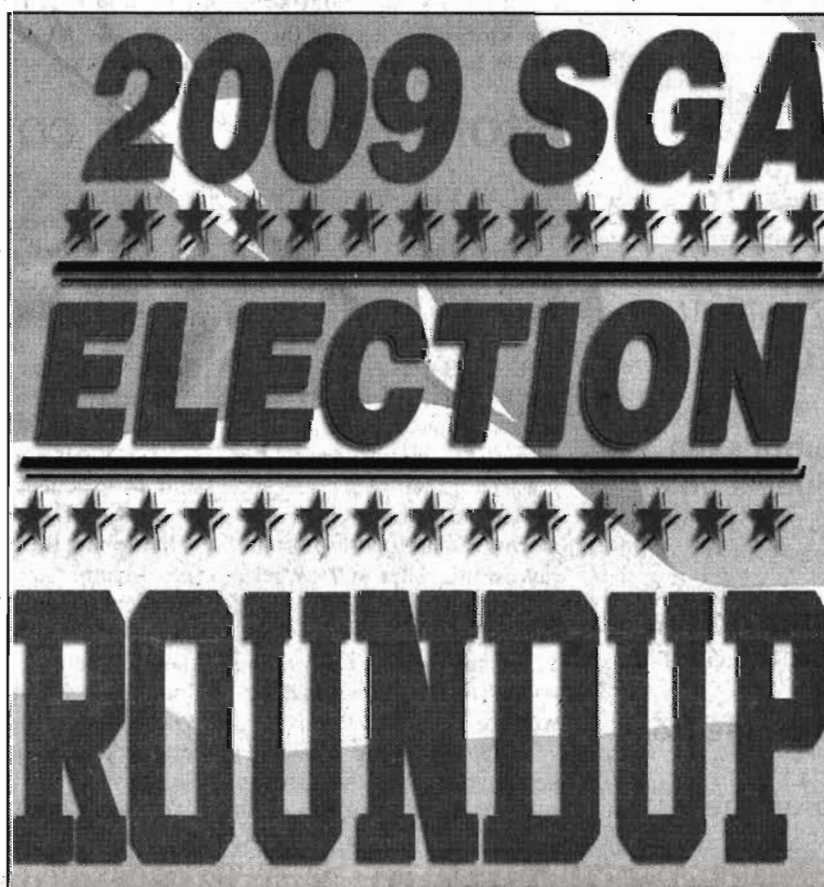
"I'm excited to move on and graduate in August," Nix says. "The last year has been a whirlwind and

sad at the same time."

Bryant Whaley will be sworn in on April 6th and from there the actual two-week transition of power will officially begin. For now, Nix is just giving advice to the newly elected Whaley.

"She told me to just handle things the way I think they should be handled," Whaley says. "And to not allow myself to be influenced by anyone."

The office of SGA President is not unlike any other elected office; it does have its pros and cons. There is the title and all the work that comes along with it, and also the sweet acceptance of the position and the bitter transition when leaving. All good things like everything come to an end, for Whaley-it's just the beginning and for Nix- well, it's bittersweet.



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See "Autism," page 2

U. New Hampshire students working to help disabled teen play Wii

By Rachel Carpenter
UWIRE

As a former forward for Dover High School's women's basketball team, Lindsey Kennell understands the value of teamwork.

Working together, communication and never going into a game with the wrong attitude, she said, are all necessities in order to pull off a win. These days Kennell may be on a different court and traveling by motorized wheelchair instead of by foot, but that same teamwork from her basketball days is proving valuable in her current endeavor: the search for normalcy in the wake of tragedy.

Three years ago, Kennell, a Dover High senior, was involved in a car accident that left her without use of her legs or left arm and only minimal control of her right.

Now, Kennell's teammates include players from Northeast Passage and the University of New Hampshire's Engineering and Occupational Therapy departments. Their goal is to help the teen participate in activities normal for many of her peers.

Kennell and her family approached Northeast Passage, a group of UNH-based therapeutic recreation specialists, in search of

new ways to socialize and spend time with her friends in her post-accident state.

They submitted a list of activities, both fun and practical, that the teen was interested in gaining access to. Fishing, paintball and elevator operation were among the suggestions, but Keller's top pick, playing the Nintendo Wii, was accepted by the electrical engineering department as their first challenge.

Chris Bancroft, an electrical engineering graduate student at UNH, oversees the work of four undergraduate students who are working hard on Kennell's project. As the project's coordinator, he and his team are developing alternative methods for operating the gaming system to meet Kennell's severe physical limitations.

"Basically the project involves adapting current technology that a lot of people can use normally into something for someone with limited functionality," said Bancroft. "What we're looking to do is restore some sense of normalcy so she can still do all the things that a lot of girls her age would be able to do."

Enabling Kennell to operate the Wii requires manipulating the various components of the remote, the system's typically hand-held controller.

During set-up, a sensor bar is placed either above or below a television screen that contains infrared points on each end. These points are detected by a tiny camera located in the front of the remote. The camera controls the cursor on the television screen by judging the distance and angle of the remote from the sensor bar as players move it.

Because Kennell lacks the ability to hold and direct the controller with either hand, the team has relocated the camera to the nose-bridge of a pair of simple safety glasses frames.

She retains motion in her neck and head, and thus, will be able to direct the controller by swiveling and nodding her head while wearing the glasses.

The proximity of a player to the television screen is inversely related to the amount of movement necessary for control. By situating herself closer to or further from the screen, Kennell will be able to control the amount of effort that goes into game play, and simultaneously, the stress of the motion on her neck.

The next step in the project's development concerns the buttons atop and underneath the controller.

See "Wii," page 2

WLJS names new Program Director

By Zach Childree
Editor in Chief

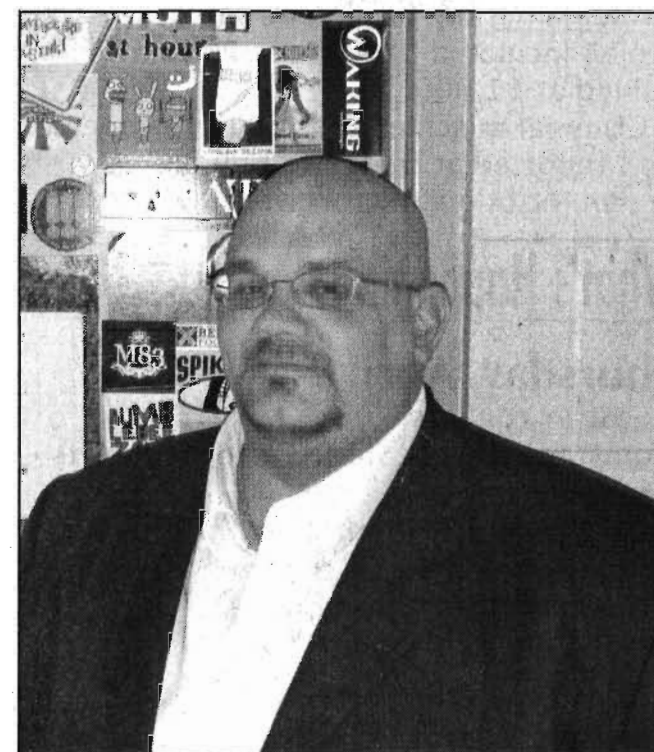
The faculty of the communication department named Billy S. Ramsey the new program director for campus radio station WLJS 92J, 91.9 FM.

The Program Director is responsible for hiring DJs and staff and training them on the equipment.

Ramsey said he was excited about his new position. "I've listened to 92J since I was 11 years old," Ramsey said. "20 years ago, this station could compete with any commercial station; I hope to bring it back to that level."

Ramsey said he hopes to make improvements around the station. "We'll have news shows and music," Ramsey said. "We hope to be more diverse with more country, R&B, and maybe even a political talk show."

Ramsey said he also hopes to get more patrons supporting the station with prizes that listeners can win. More live remotes are also planned. "Basically if an organization has an event, like



Billy Ramsey is the new Program Director for 92-J.
Photo by Zach Childree / The Chanticleer

a blood drive or a sports tournament, 92J will do a live broadcast from the event," Ramsey said. "Listenership is down and we want to find ways to encourage students to request music and really participate in the campus radio station."

Ramsey asked that if students are interested in volunteering for the station, contact 92J at (256) 782-5592 or online at wljs92j.com.

INDEX

On Campus 2

Campus Crime 2

Opinions 3

Sports 5, 6

Lost in Yonkers

Doran Smith reviews the latest production from the JSU drama department.

Page 4

Dating/Love

Julie Skinner talks about communication in relationships.

Page 3

Back to Business

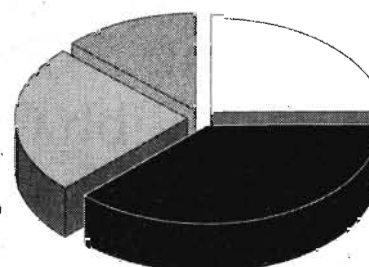
Jared Gravette details Karla Pittman's struggle after a serious knee injury.

Page 5

QUESTION of the WEEK

Which paper informs you more?

- ☐ The Chanticleer - 25% ☐ Jacksonville News - 25%
☐ The Anniston Star - 18% ☐ The New York Times - 38%



Next week's question:

Which of the student media do you use most?

ONLINE @

thechanticleeronline.com

ON Campus

Campus Crime

March 23

- Harrassing communications were reported.
- Theft of property was reported at Crow Hall. Items stolen include a gold high school class ring valued at \$495.

March 24

- Theft of property was reported at the field house. Items stolen include a Cincinnati Bengals helmet valued at \$400.
- Theft of property was reported at Rudy Abbot field. Items stolen include an AT&T Quick Fire phone valued at \$200.

March 25

- Theft of lost property was reported at Daugette Hall. Items stolen include a Mississippi State Championship ring valued at \$1,200.
- Harrassing communications were reported at Crow Hall.

March 26

- Unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle was reported at Stone Center. Items stolen include an HP Laptop valued at \$300, a silver watch valued at \$50, a debit card and a checkbook.
- Leon Jermaine Mack was arrested on Trustee Circle for carrying a pistol without a permit.

March 27

- Burglary was reported at Campus Inn Apartments. Items stolen include a gold chain valued at \$250.

March 29

- Criminal mischief was reported on the 2nd floor of Martin Hall. A window over a display board was broken.
- A disturbance was reported on the front steps of Stevenson Gym.
- An altercation was reported on the Quad.

Picture of the week



The storm that passed through the area on Monday morning felled this tree at The Meadows Apartments in Alexandria. If you would like to see your photo as 'Photo of the week', email it to chantyeditor@gmail.com. Photo Special to *The Chanticleer*

Storms: more rain could be on its way

think they're going to have to do it all over again."

The area could receive about a foot of rain by this weekend.

The National Weather Service called Tuesday for as much as three to five inches across south Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Georgia. Those amounts are expected to increase with new storms spreading rain throughout the area later in the week.

Parts of the Southeast have seen rainfall between five and 11 inches in recent days, and some isolated areas had upward of 17 inches.

Water is going down in some areas, but the forecast has emergency officials on

alert.

"We're seeing estimates of 6 to 12 inches more by the end of the weekend," Carlisle said.

At least 30 people were forced from their homes over the weekend in Houston County, Ala. Dothan Red Cross executive director Susan Holmes said 14 evacuees remained in city motels Tuesday.

In Mobile, Red Cross executive director Leisle Mims said her agency helped find temporary shelter for 29 families, or about 60 people, displaced by flooding in Mobile and Baldwin counties, but most had returned to their homes by Tuesday.

The weekend thunderstorms

caused an estimated \$1.25 million in flood damage in Houston County, one of 11 counties Gov. Bob Riley declared in a state of emergency.

In Geneva County, Emergency Management Agency Director Margaret Mixon said the reinforced levee protecting the city of Geneva from the rising Pea and Choctawhatchee rivers was holding. But Mixon said three retention ponds are near capacity.

With about 4,300 residents, the city of Geneva is dry, but it is surrounded by floodwaters that are expected to rise against the levee, she said.

"We're in for a lot more rain. We're just giving out sandbags and hoping for the

best," she said.

Mixon said about 300 homes in the rural county on the Florida line were flooded by the weekend storms and a number still have water.

"We've got tarps ready in case people need them," said Baldwin County EMA Director Leigh Ann Ryals.

The severe weather has killed one person in Florida and injured 30 in Mississippi. In Florida, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office reported the death of an Alabama man whose pickup truck washed off a roadway and sank in floodwaters on Sunday.

Autism: Sorority partners with national organization

2nd floor of Martin Hall. A window over a display board was broken.

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March 30

- A burglary was reported at the softball field. Items stolen include candy.
- A theft of property was reported at Crow Hall in the basement lounge. Items stolen include a flat-screen Plasma TV valued at \$1,000.
- Criminal mischief and theft of property was reported at Daugette Hall. Items stolen include a microwave.

What's Happening

Thursday, April 2

- Lost in Yonkers.

Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center.

7:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Admission: \$5, \$8, \$10.

- Greek Awards Ceremony

Leone Cole Auditorium

6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 3

- Lost in Yonkers.

Mainstage, Ernest Stone Performing Arts Center.

7:00 p.m. – 9:15 p.m.

Admission: \$5, \$8, \$10.

- CBASE

TMB Auditorium, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

- Dixie Conclave

TMB Lawn, 2:00 p.m.

Monday, April 6

- SGA Banquet

Gamecock Center, 6:00 p.m.

- Fundraiser for American Red Cross

2nd floor TMB lobby

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7

- Organization Council Meeting

TMB Auditorium, 6:00 p.m.

- Recreation Connection

TMB front lawn, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8

- Resident Appreciation Week Honors

Leone Cole Auditorium, 6:00 – 11:00 p.m.

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Autism: Sorority partners with national organization

treatments and cure for autism, making it the nation's top private funder of autism research.

Alpha Xi Delta chapters and associations across the nation will participate in or host fundraising events and offer volunteer assistance in support of Autism Speaks. The members of the Epsilon Pi Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta intend to use their time and talent to raise awareness about autism on

the Jacksonville State University campus, and they look forward to sharing those specific plans with you in the coming months.

"We are extremely excited about our new philanthropy. This gives us a chance to branch out and make a difference in the lives of those affected by autism by helping raise money and awareness for the cause," said Lisa Reed, President of

Epsilon Pi Chapter of Alpha Xi Delta.

With one in 150 children diagnosed with autism and no known cure, Alpha Xi Delta is committed to improving the lives of children and families affected by autism. Alpha Xi Delta hopes their fundraising and awareness efforts can help put one more piece of the autism puzzle in place.

Wii: First choice of disabled teen

The students are looking to mount them on a plane that Kennell will be able to access with the limited motion in her right hand. Bancroft said she has medial and lateral flexion in her right hand, the ability to swivel her hand to the right and left, as well as swing her hand forward and backward from the elbow.

Through careful placement of buttons on a flat plane where Kennell can access them, the team hopes she will be able to press them with her right hand. The team said the possibility of a joystick equipped with Velcro as an alternative to the directional arrow control has been discussed, but has yet to be tested.

The project is currently in trial stages. Each member

works independently and the team congregates weekly to monitor and discuss progress.

Junior occupational therapy major Angie Royer is on hand to monitor the equipment being designed by the group, making sure it meets Kennell's needs and keeping concerns like the stress the adaptations will have on her body in mind.

Electrical engineering majors Alex Evangelou, a senior, and John Burdett, a sophomore, physically make the alterations to the equipment.

Nicole Muir, a junior Occupational Therapy major, lends assistance when she is able.

With the exception of Muir, the students involved receive university credit, but Dr. John

LaCourse said the experiential value the project holds for them goes far beyond the credits they will receive.

"Electrical engineering students tend to get boxed in laboratories with computers and instruments," he said. "In this particular case you're working with a human being, a client. It's the human element that a lot of the electrical engineers do not get and the occupational therapy students get the electrical engineering side or the computer engineering side so it's a real multidisciplinary activity. A collaborative effort is what I call it."

LaCourse, the chair of the electrical and computer engineering department, describes his role in the

project as a kind of mentor to the students involved, as he has done work in biomedical engineering.

The project isn't intended to be ground-breaking or create a patentable product, said LaCourse. Its intention is to offer experience to UNH students and provide Kennell increased normalcy. She already uses a variety of adapted technology that is commercially available to individuals with her disabilities.

"I've noticed that if I look more for certain stuff that I know I will be able to use, it's out there," she said. "You just have to look for it."

Announcements

The JSU Public Relations office is looking for student writers!

Bring writing samples to 108 Bibb Graves and ask for Angie or Patty

Congrats to the 2009-10 leaders of student media

Alicia Warren
Editor, The Mimosa

Billy Ramsey
Program Director, WLJS 92J

Zach Childree
Editor in Chief, The Chanticleer

Opinion

Dating/Love: In the age of communication

By Julie Skinner

Dear Julie,

I've been in a relationship for almost 4 months. In the past 2 weeks, my boyfriend has been a little clingy. At first, it was OK, but it's started to get on my nerves. Is the problem me or him?

- The Magnetizer

Magnetizer,

Luckily, you've caught this problem early in the relationship and haven't let it get out of hand. Being too "clingy" can actually push your significant other away, so it's no surprise that you're feeling a bit smothered. The problem seems to be your boyfriend. If you are content and happy with all other aspects of the relationship except for your beau's recent smothering, then the problem can be worked on. Just talk to your boyfriend about how you're feeling. Tell him that you want this to work, but that without some personal space, you're not sure if it's going to. If he freaks out and smothers you more... then there's your green light. Get outta there.

Dear Julie,

When my girlfriend and I go out to eat or other places, people usually look at the age difference between us. It doesn't bother me, but does bother her at times. How can I assure her that this is "right?"

- Creepy Old Guy

Creepy Old Guy,

First of all, great name. It's great that you can poke fun at yourself. Secondly, it's hard to feel confident in public places when people stare, no matter what the reason is. However, if you and your girlfriend are both comfortable and secure in your relationship, then the opinion of other's shouldn't matter. Compared to the few uncomfortable moments those people cause when they gawk, the moments that you and your girlfriend get to spend together enjoying each other's time

Pope-posterous: Condom remark warrants an apology

By Clint Fullen
UWIRE

Science and religion have often had their differences, but when Pope Benedict XVI said that condoms make the African AIDS epidemic even worse, religious politics hit a whole new level.

While visiting Africa in March, the pontiff told reporters "you cannot resolve (the spreading of HIV) with distribution of condoms" and "on the contrary, it increases it," according to The Boston Globe.

The bold claim garnered a mass of criticism by medical and health organizations. The Associated Press reported the statement was chastised by France, Germany and an AIDS-fighting United Nations agency as "irresponsible and dangerous."

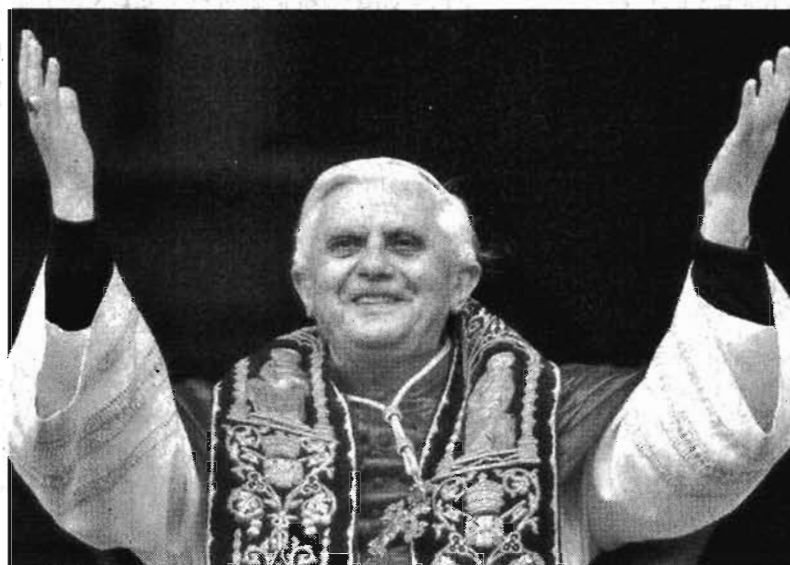
Also, according to CNN, thousands have pledged to send the Vatican condoms in protest.

It is almost understandable why the pope would make such declaration. Condoms cannot be the sole agent in the struggle against HIV.

Besides, the man is Catholic. Obviously, Benedict does not approve of any form of contraception, and the Roman Catholic Church certainly does not condone premarital sex.

But to state that condom use enlarges the rate of infections is utterly absurd.

Regardless, several Catholic



figureheads have remained supportive of the pope's remark.

The Vatican felt compelled to step in and say that "Benedict wanted to stress that a reliance on condoms distracted from the need for proper education in sexual conduct," according to The Associated Press.

Then again, if the pontiff really meant to say something to that effect, why didn't he?

After all, Benedict already knew the questions. According to The Associated Press, the Vatican asks reporters to submit questions in advance and then makes a selection, giving Benedict time to prepare a response.

If Benedict wanted to, he could have been as clear and eloquent as

possible.

The pope could have said, "Abstinence is the best defense against HIV."

The pope could have said, "A reduction of rape and sexual abuse would severely curb transmission."

Benedict could have made note of how widespread polygamy and intergenerational relationships can make containing the virus difficult.

Instead, the pontiff took his time with the press to demonize man's most practical tool for safe sex.

The British medical journal, The Lancet, wrote, "When any influential person, be it a religious or political leader, makes a false scientific statement that could be devastating to the health of millions of people, they should retract

or correct the public record."

The pope should repent publicly for his statement. Lord knows he's had to do it in the past.

It isn't wrong to declare that condoms are not the end-all solution to sexually transmitted diseases.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "It should be noted that condom use cannot provide absolute protection against HIV. The surest way to avoid transmission of HIV is to abstain from sexual intercourse or to be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who has tested and you know is uninfected."

However, to pronounce that condoms are making transmission increasingly worse is not fair to those who do not know any better. When the most powerful man in religion makes a blunt and erroneous claim on a matter of health and safety, it becomes appropriate to be more critical.

Science and religion do not have to pose as adversaries, but when the bishop of Rome makes assertions like this, it makes it hard not to notice the discrepancy.

Debaptism an insult, not defense of religious rights

Matthew Albright
UWIRE

For many Christians, baptism is one of the most sacred ceremonies in which a person can participate.

Baptism is a symbol of a person's acceptance of the faith, a way of publicly affirming their beliefs.

But for some, it's a mark of shame — a mark they want to erase from history.

CERTIFICATE OF DEBAPTISM

After due deliberation, I,

having been subjected to the Rite of Christian Baptism in infancy (before reaching an age

no matter what the reason is. However, if you and your girlfriend are both comfortable and secure in your relationship, then the opinion of other's shouldn't matter. Compared to the few uncomfortable moments those people cause when they gawk, the moments that you and your girlfriend get to spend together enjoying each other's time should triumph. Let your girlfriend know that you understand that it's difficult when people take notice of the age difference, but that you don't mind it. It might take some time before it doesn't bother her anymore. Be patient. Let her know that you're there to talk to and that you don't want to let a good thing go to waste because of other's not being able to control their eyes.

Dear Julie,

How important is communication in a relationship?

- The Devil.

Devil,

Communication is SO important. I can't stress that enough. The more you don't talk, the less you're able to listen. If a problem arises between you and your significant other, don't waste time before you talk about it.

No matter what the issue: sex, trust, marriage, jealousy, you should feel comfortable and free to express whatever is on your mind.

Communication is key to a happy and trustworthy relationship. And a little tip, don't text your feelings. Talk about them face to face, the good old-fashioned way. You can't hug a text message or wipe away its tears. Sometimes you'll fight and wish you would have never brought up your feelings, but the longer you wait, the harder it will be.

For many Christians, baptism is one of the most sacred ceremonies in which a person can participate.

Baptism is a symbol of a person's acceptance of the faith, a way of publicly affirming their beliefs.

But for some, it's a mark of shame — a mark they want to erase from history.

England's National Secular Society is doing everything in its power to help its formerly faithful members do just that.

Atheist John Hunt is a pioneer in an emerging movement toward "debaptism" — a formal rejection of the creeds of baptism.

Hunt, a member of the NSS, has petitioned the local clergy of the Church of England to officially remove his name from their baptismal records.

Apparently Hunt, who broke his faith as a teenager, wants to remove any trace of affiliation he might have with an organization preaching what he now believes to be superstition.

The Church has so far refused to comply. "You can't remove from the record something that actually happened," the Right Reverend Nick Baines, Bishop of Croydon said, according to the BBC. "Whether we agree whether it should have happened or not is a different matter."

In Baines' view, whatever his current beliefs about God are, Hunt can't pretend his baptism never happened.

Hunt's petition is a part of the NSS's attempt at convincing the Church of England to develop an official procedure for annulling baptisms. So far, such a procedure has not been devised.

In response to the Church's hesitance, the NSS has begun issuing documents called "Certificates of Debaptism."

The documents are deliberately constructed as satire of Church ceremonies, and the ceremonies intentionally look homemade and use faux ceremonial language.

CERTIFICATE OF DEBAPTISM

After due deliberation, I,

having been subjected to the Rite of Christian Baptism in infancy (before reaching an age of consent), hereby publicly revoke any implications of that Rite and renounce the Church that carried it out. In the name of human reason, I reject all its Creeds and all other such superstition in particular, the perfidious belief that any baby needs to be cleansed by Baptism of alleged ORIGINAL SIN, and the evil power of supposed demons. I wish to be excluded henceforth from enhanced claims of church membership numbers based on past baptismal statistics used, for example, for the purpose of securing legislative privilege.

Signed _____

Witnessed by _____

This _____ day of _____

20_____

NATIONAL
secular
SOCIETY

Hunt's certificate reads, "I, John Geoffrey Hunt, having been subjected to the rite of Christian baptism in infancy ... hereby publicly revoke any implications of that rite. I reject all its creeds and other such superstitions in particular the perfidious belief that any baby needs to be cleansed of original sin."

The certificate is largely a tongue-in-cheek jab at the formalities of the Church — in fact, the Society's president Terry Sanderson suggested that it be displayed in the bathroom.

The document is available online, and has been downloaded more than 60,000 times, according to Sanderson.

The Society's movement to annul baptisms seems juvenile.

The Church's argument is sound — whether Hunt likes it or not, he was baptized, even if he was too young to understand. The church records are historical documents, so the names should not be removed.

A baptism does not denote membership in

the Church. It's a profession of belief, and, as Hunt is well aware, beliefs can and do change throughout a person's life. By maintaining records of his baptism, the Church is certainly not claiming any affiliation or power over him.

Besides, if the NSS really thinks Christian beliefs are so absurd and false, there's no reason for them to attach any significance to the ceremonies those beliefs entail.

But, on the other hand, baptism is a sacred, important ritual to those who have kept the faith — atheists have no reason to care about baptisms as Christians do.

The "debaptism" effort represents a certain breed of militant, confrontational atheism more concerned with vehemently disassociating themselves from Christianity than maintaining actual religious freedom.

If Hunt wants to distance himself from his former religious affiliations, that right is certainly his. But digging into the obscure archives of a church in an effort to remove all traces of his past only serves to insult the faith in which he was raised.

The Chanticleer

Student newspaper of JSU since 1934

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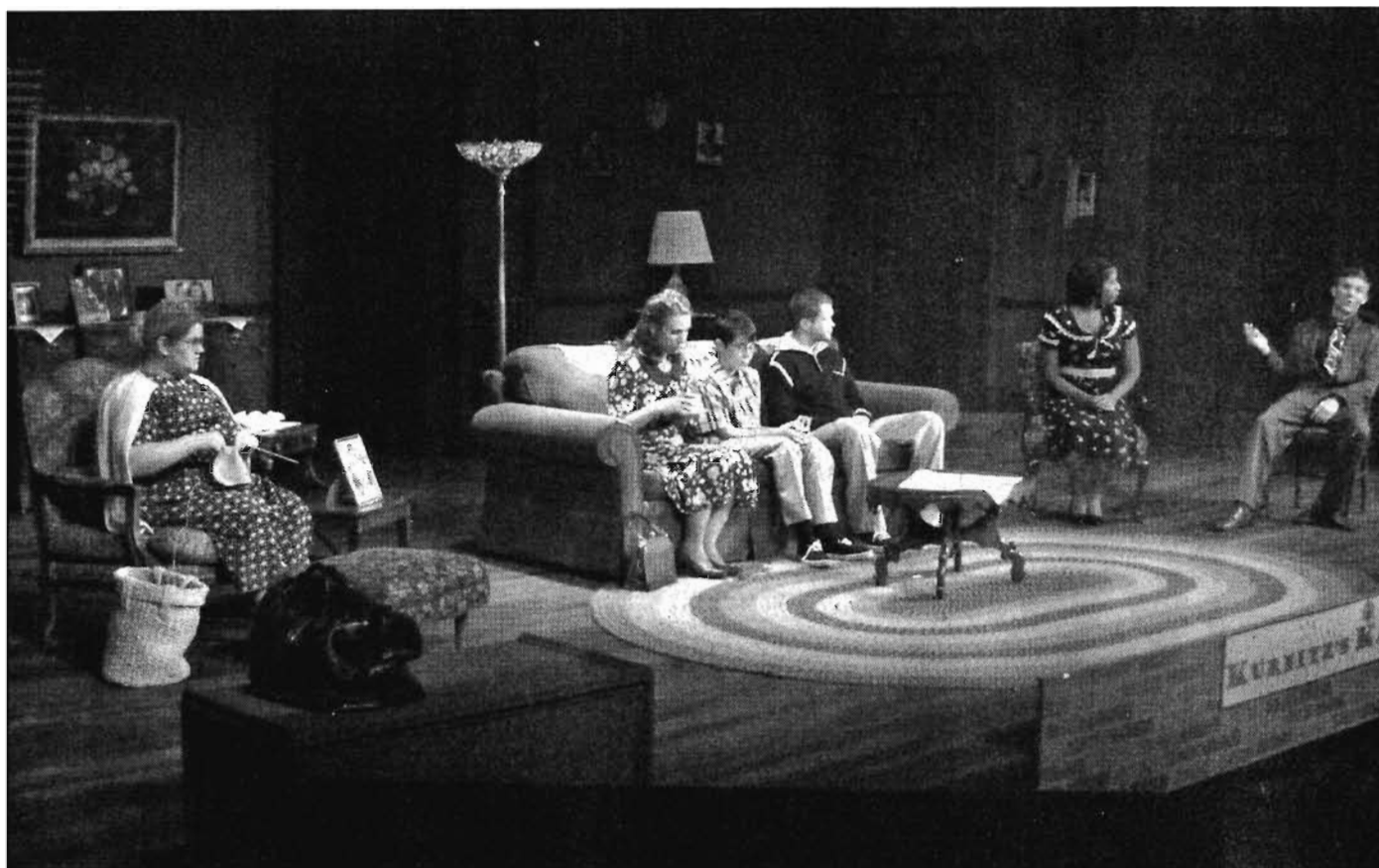
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Letters Policy:

The Chanticleer welcomes letters to the editor. Letters for publication must be limited to 300 words and must be typed. Letters may be hand-delivered or sent through campus mail to our offices in **Room 180, Self Hall**, or to the mailing address to the left. Letters may also be e-mailed to chantyeditor@gmail.com.

The Chanticleer will not print letters which are libelous or defamatory. Letters may be edited for style, brevity or clarity. *The Chanticleer* reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission. Letters must be received by noon on the Monday prior to desired publication date. There will be at least two weeks between publication of letters from the same person. Rebuttals will be published no later than two weeks after publication of the article, editorial or letter in question.



From left: Katie Daniels, Rachel Bagley, Jamie Davis, Gatlin Alldredge, Meri Huntley and Jared Cuthrell.

Mandy Pearson/The Chanticleer

Lost in where?

'Lost in Yonkers' opens at JSU

By Doran Smith
Staff Writer

The Jacksonville State University Drama Department along with Alpha Psi Omega Honor Society will open *Lost in Yonkers* on Thursday, April 2.

The Neil Simon show is set in Yonkers, New York, and is an adaptation of a very dysfunctional Jewish family during World War II. The family is a family in the loosest meaning of the word.

Through the harsh feelings the family members develop for each other respect is a given and drama is sure to ensue.

The show opens with the two youngest of the family finding that they are stuck with their

household, 15-year-old Jacob (Gatlin Alldredge) and 13-year-old Arthur (Jamie Davis) have decided thoroughly that they dislike the place. After Uncle Louie (Jarrod Cuthrell) arrives, Jacob and Artie decide that if their father and his three siblings went through the same thing, for many years, they might have a chance for a few months. When more drama arises within the family, Aunt Bella (Huntley) invites over the last sibling, Gertrude (Rachel Bagley) for support.

If there could be only one thing to say about the brothers, it is that they mix well. They aid each other's performance: compliment each other and make up for the others shortcomings. Alldredge especially

la, Huntley did a very acceptable portrayal. Her expression rarely matched what she said and what she said rarely matched the situation. That is how the character is written: written to make sense but not quite fit in perfectly. The only criticism that can be made is that she could have been so much more. In stead lightly laughing off a misunderstanding, she should have burst out with laughter at her own folly. In the place of embarrassment, she could have embraced absurdity.

Mask, as the father, came off a little stiff. During an emotional explanation, Mask accurately portrays the desperate plea of a broken man. His reading of his letters, however,

only showed her age, but also complimented the fact that she was an uncaring woman. Throughout the play, Daniels kept up her rigid persona.

Cuthrell played, in my mind, the best and most complicated character. He kept up a very convincing accent for the part and had the fluid movement to support it. You didn't like him during his low parts and felt the child-like excitement of the brothers during his high parts. His every action, story, and laugh made the show come alive.

To finish off this perfect picture of a dysfunctional family, there was Bagley. Much like Huntley before her, Bagley had to portray a woman who didn't quite fit. She did this

Covering up art

Bowling Green State U. in the midst of censorship controversy

By Freddy Hunt
UWIRE

The removal of a sculpture from a Firelands campus art exhibit that administrators deemed "inappropriate" has raised questions surrounding First Amendment rights and academic freedom, prompting outrage in the Bowling Green State University community and the attention of a national censorship watchdog organization.

What happened:

Last Wednesday when Art Professor David Sapp showed up to work at the Firelands campus, he was informed that a sculpture was removed from his gallery.

The removed sculpture, titled "The Middle School Science Teacher Makes a Decision He'll Live to Regret," depicts a girl wearing a backpack, on her knees, performing oral sex on a standing male middle school science teacher. It was one of 13 sculptures in the exhibit.

Sapp, the director of the Little Gallery, had been asked by Fireland's Interim Dean James Matthew Smith to remove the sculpture on Tuesday of last week. The interim dean's main concern was that the sculpture was in view of the nearby children's theater.

Sapp refused to censor.

After receiving a thumbs up from the University provost, Matthew Smith went ahead and removed the sculpture without Sapp's consent.

The University stood by its decision to remove the sculpture in a press release sent out Friday.

"As an institution of higher education, Bowling Green State University strongly supports the right of free speech and artistic expres-

sional acquaintances, pets and colleagues. Although the material may be inappropriate for children, the National Coalition Against Censorship expressed to the University that it is appropriate for a public university.

In an e-mail addressed to University officials, the NCAC Director Programs Svetlana Mintcheva said the sculpture's removal "is an unacceptable violation of the academic freedom to openly discuss ideas and social problems in a public university, whether these ideas are expressed in books, in the classroom, or in visual form in the gallery. ..."

"As a public educational institution, BGSU Firelands is bound by the First Amendment obligation not to discriminate against particular ideas, no matter how controversial they might be. The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly defined a university as a 'quintessential marketplace of ideas' that warrants heightened First Amendment protection."

The e-mail was addressed to Sapp, University President Carol Cartwright, Director of the School of Art Katerina Ray and Provost Mark Gromko.

The University has not responded to the NCAC nor has it fulfilled its request to restore the exhibit to its entirety.

"At this point I'm still hoping the University realizes they responded pretty hastily," Mintcheva said. "It's a topic that's disturbing but on the other hand that's why we have academic freedom and freedom of speech."

Parlin, an art professor at Edinboro University, said he couldn't understand why his exhibit was being challenged nearly two weeks after it opened, and with only two weeks left to go.

ity is a family in the roughest meaning of the word.

Through the harsh feelings the family members develop for each other respect is a given and drama is sure to ensue.

The show opens with the two youngest of the family finding that they are stuck with their estranged aunt (Meri Huntley) and unloving grandmother (Katie Daniels). The widowed father (Joe Mask) who is forced to leave his children in the care (or lack thereof) of his mother must attend to a new job in the south pertaining to the war. After a while of learning the hardships of the

meanings of the word. (Michael Bagley) for support.

If there could be only one thing to say about the brothers, it is that they mix well. They aid each other's performance: compliment each other and make up for the others shortcomings. Alldredge especially captured something about the age of fifteen. He recreated very well for the audience. His every movement showed frustration towards the situation. Alldredge was at his best in this performance as compared to any other role in which I have seen him.

As for the role of Aunt Bel-

in the place of embarrassment, she could have embraced absurdity.

Mask, as the father, came off a little stiff. During an emotional explanation, Mask accurately portrays the desperate plea of a broken man. His reading of his letters, however, was heartfelt and emotional. Mask let the children hear his character in his voice, but not quite see it in his movement.

Grandmother Kurnitz, on the other hand, was also stiff. However, she somehow made the stiffness work for her character. The stiff, rigid motions of a German immigrant not

part. The every action, story, and laugh made the show come alive.

To finish off this perfect picture of a dysfunctional family, there was Bagley. Much like Huntley before her, Bagley had to portray a woman who didn't quite fit. She did this convincingly.

Overall I give the show a B+. I enjoyed the play and would recommend it to anyone. The costumes are true and the set is elegant. The show is directed Denise Shaw and will have 7 p.m. showings on April 2, 3, and 4. A 2 p.m. showing will be on Sunday, April 5.

Review: 'Better Off Ted' may be better off the air

By Catherine Scott
UWIRE

The workplace comedy has become a staple of television over the past few years. Some these shows are wildly successful, but many try to be "The Office" and fail miserably. Even though there are some funny jokes and even a few memorable ones, "Better Off Ted" is yet another one of these dismal wannabes.

The titular Ted, played by Jay Harrington, runs the research and development section of Veridian Dynamics. The company is always inventing new things, from weapons to food to food that can be used as a weapon. Often the inventions are less than ethical or safe for the public, but Ted's boss, Veronica (Portia de Rossi), thinks that making money is more important than keeping the public safe.

Working in the lab to develop all of these fascinating new projects are Phil (Jonathan Slavin) and Lem (Malcolm Barrett), two brilliant and nerdy scientists. The conflict begins when Veronica asks Phil to cryogenically freeze himself for the company in the name of technology advancement. When he agrees and is accidentally thawed out a few days later, there are some bizarre side effects that worry the company.

The other important player in the cast is Ted's crush, Linda (Andrea Anders). But because he slept with Veronica, he refuses to have another office affair. Ted tries to ignore his feelings for her even as they grow stronger every time he sees her.

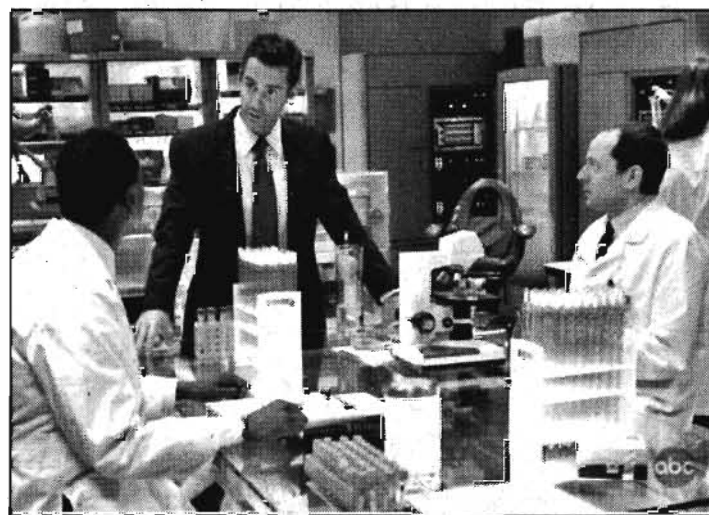
The plot of "Better Off Ted" is inanely simple. There are only five characters of interest, and most of them aren't really that interesting, especially the protagonist. While Harrington is

not a bad actor, the character of Ted is too boring to hold any viewer's interest. He isn't funny, but he isn't serious, either, since he works for a company that produces dangerous consumer goods on a daily basis. He mostly just serves as a mirror for the insanity of Veridian Dynamics.

The supporting characters are not much better. Phil and Lem's awkward interactions are supposed to be funny, but never are, due to the childish dialogue they are given in the show's script. Their fights are reminiscent of Spanky and Alfalfa from "The Little Rascals" without the cute-child factor. Ted's love interest Linda is incredibly boring, and it is very difficult to believe that intelligent and handsome Ted would ever fall in love with her.

The only saving grace of this show is the comedic brilliance that is Portia de Rossi. Her portrayal of the ice queen Veronica is highly off-putting and incredibly funny. From the way her hair is always pulled back into a ridiculously tight bun to her inability to effectively make small talk, Veronica is the epitome of a stuck-up, no-nonsense boss.

One aspect of the show that has potential to be funny is the ridiculous inventions that Phil and Lem are forced to design. They have to grow cow-less meat in the lab but must avoid naming



the slab of meat so as not to become attached to it. They build a moldy pumpkin that can be utilized as a weapon of mass destruction by rotting people from the inside out. Veronica also worries about a killer cyborg that has been having problems distinguishing between soldiers and children.

Possibly the funniest part of the show is the opening sequence, which shows a Veridian Dynamics commercial that documents the important discoveries the company has recently made. Narrated by de Rossi, the commercials showcase the absurdity of Veridian Dynamics. The company's inventions are designed to make a quick profit until the public realizes the worthlessness of the product and then move on to the next one.

While the actors' skills are largely impressive, they are not given much to work with, and much of the show's dialogue falls flat. All in all, the show has a few good elements, but it really is not worth watching as an up-and-coming comedy show.

The University stood by its decision to remove the sculpture in a press release sent out Friday.

"As an institution of higher education, Bowling Green State University strongly supports the right of free speech and artistic expression. However, we also have a responsibility and obligation to not expose the children and families we invite to our campus to inappropriate material," according to the release.

In protest of censoring, Sapp closed the exhibit entirely.

"That's [Sapp's] right as the gallery director, that certainly wasn't our intention," said Dave Kiemeier, director of Marketing and Communications at the University. "Our intention was to remove that one piece we thought was inappropriate for children and families visiting campus."

The name of the exhibit is "A Bakers Dozen." If one of the 13 sculptures is removed, the exhibit is incomplete, Sapp said.

Pornographic vs. artistic

The exhibit isn't easy to look at. The subject matter is gritty.

The University's legal council allowed the removal of the science teacher sculpture because they were afraid it could qualify as child pornography, Kiemeier said.

Sapp never saw any porno in the gallery. He saw art.

"There's no genitalia, it's made in such a way that you can't see any sort of sign of ecstasy on the man's face and you can't tell the exact age of the person but the title tells that it's a young teen," he said. "It's not pictorial graphic. Is it disturbing? Well sure. Is it hard to look at? Well sure. But it's not explicit."

Other sculptures in the exhibit include, "The Man Who Hasn't Seen His Genitals in Years," "Sami Drops a Deuce," "Bobbie Put Her Gun in Her Mouth" and "John Put His Head in the Oven."

The artwork is based off experiences of artist James Parlin's friends, family, ca-

have academic freedom and freedom of speech."

Parlin, an art professor at Edinboro University, said he couldn't understand why his exhibit was being challenged nearly two weeks after it opened, and with only two weeks left to go.

"There are galleries, college galleries, all over the country, in big cities and small towns, that show a whole range of artwork," Parlin said. "And if they think there's going to be a problem with, say, children seeing it, it's very easy to set up a protocol to avoid that situation, and a lot of places do that."

Two possible remedies proposed by Sapp and echoed in the NCAC e-mail were to post signs warning visitors the gallery contains mature content and to close the gallery during children's theater performances.

Kristie Foell, director of the International Studies Program at the University, is mainly worried about any precedent the censor may have set.

"Academic freedom is an absolute central value of the University and when you chip away at it at one corner, what will be the next thing to go?" Foell said. "If an art gallery is fair game, is a classroom fair game? Is a film series fair game?"

Sapp said he threatened to resign if the gallery was censored, but didn't because a permanent dean will soon be replacing Interim Dean Matthew Smith. Three candidates for the Firelands dean position were announced earlier this week.

"We'll see what the new dean brings. If I see this again then I will resign. No hesitation," Sapp said. "But I hope it doesn't come to that. I hope the University learns from this incident, that there are other alternatives other than censorship."

The exhibit was on display at Lock Haven University, of Pennsylvania, in October. Parlin said there have never been problems with the exhibit before.

Each sculpture in "A Bakers Dozen" is valued at approximately \$6,000.

Sports



Jered Staubs

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Wish Granted

There are times when I'll take a side largely because nobody else will.

That doesn't mean I don't believe what I write, it just means that when nobody wants to take a certain stance on an issue and I feel that stance has validity, I assert that opinion.

That said, I don't think even the biggest Devil's advocate can argue that Anthony Grant is a fantastic hire for the University of Alabama. I would say he's a better fit for the basketball program even than Saban is for the football program, and obviously Saban is a near-perfect fit.

But I've always thought the only thing standing between Anthony Grant and multiple Final Fours was elite athletes. He had one at VCU, he'll have a plethora at Alabama.

Anyone who can coach Ben Howland dead even with inferior talent on the biggest stage in college basketball is deserving of an opportunity such as the one he got.

I did have a buddy in Tuscaloosa say that people down there were saying Grant isn't the same caliber coach as Mike Anderson.

That's all well and good, Anderson is a hell of a coach, but I can't imagine he would have even considered leaving Missouri for Alabama. When you have a chance to hit a sure stand-up triple, you don't hold out hope for the longshot homerun.

On the other hand, I think Kentucky's decision to let go of Billy Gillespie after two years was absolutely insane.

Tootle, Gamecocks win 14th consecutive OVC series

By Jered Staubs
Sports Editor

Oh, that's why the accolades kept rolling in this preseason.

It's not that Ben Tootle had pitched poorly up until this past week. He had actually been pretty successful, 2-1 with a sub-3.00 ERA. But there were murmurs that perhaps JSU's prized pitching prospect was a bit overrated. Those who came out to see him were expecting more.

But that all changed as Tootle made Austin Peay look helpless last Saturday. The junior from Oxford finished off a double-header sweep of the Governors in style, striking out 10 and allowing only three hits in a complete game 4-0 victory.

The offense scored three runs in the first inning on the strength of an RBI single by Daniel Adamson and a two-run double by Heath Wall.

That was plenty, as Austin Peay never looked like touching Tootle.

It took until the last inning for Austin Peay to get a runner in scoring position, and that came with two outs in the bottom of the seventh (In the second game of double-headers, teams only play seven innings). Tootle promptly struck out the next

hitter to improve JSU's record to 15-9, 4-1 OVC.

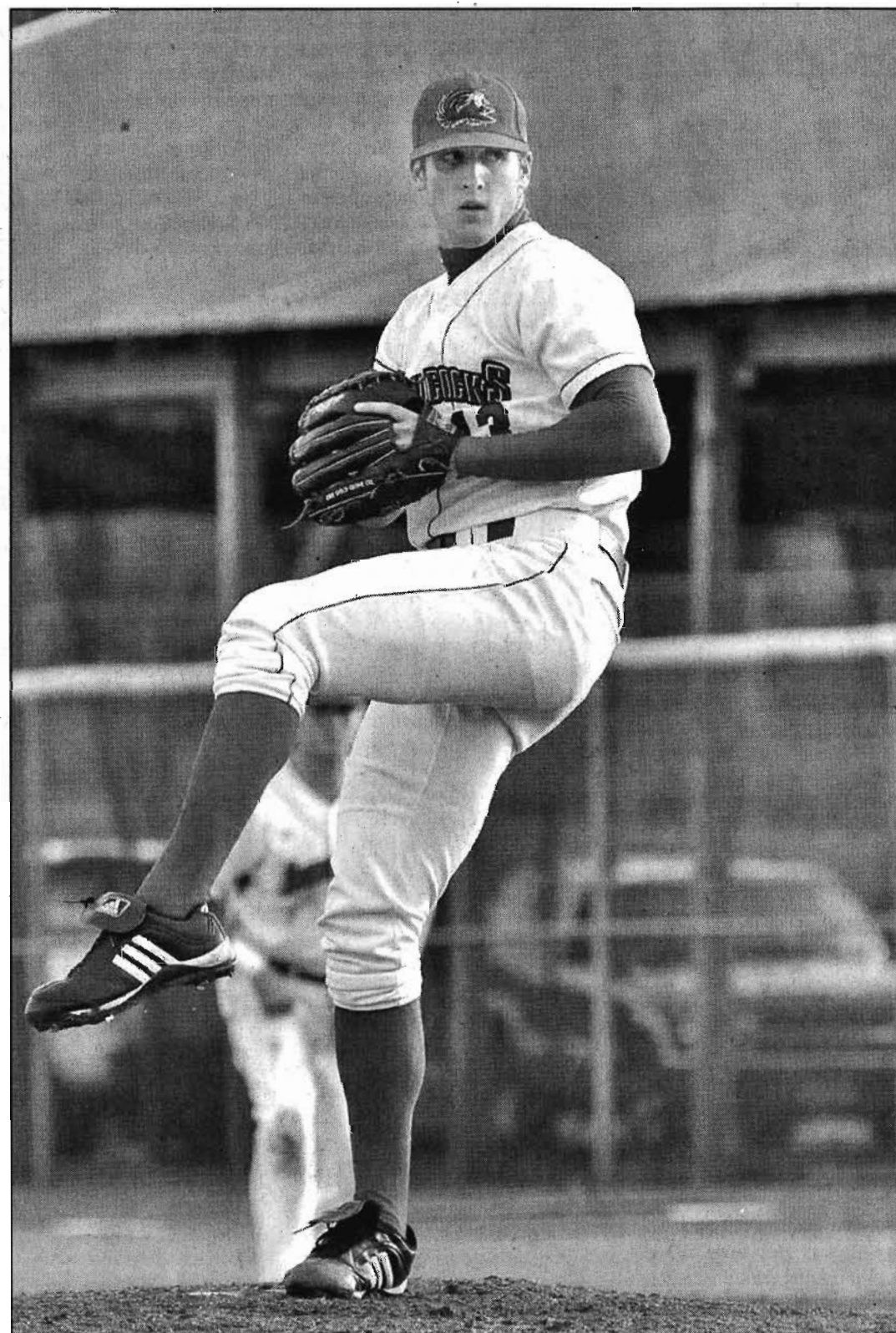
That record would take a hit the next day, as the Governors were able to salvage something from their weekend series with the Gamecocks. Austin Peay took advantage of a dip in form by the previously hot Austin Lucas, roughing him up for five earned runs in only three innings.

Still, JSU's offense bailed Lucas out, as they had equal success with Peay starter Jack Snodgrass, who allowed six runs in 4 1/3 innings of work. Blake Seguin and Kyle Bluestein both had four hits to pace the Gamecock offense.

But in a game with little pitching to mention, the Governors' bullpen was able to have more success than the Gamecocks' relievers.

Trailing 6-5 after six, Austin Peay was able to tie the game in the seventh and then put together a string of hits — aided by a couple walks and an error — that led to a 4-run inning and a 10-6 lead.

A homer by Adamson gave JSU some hope in the bottom of the ninth, but it was for naught as Peay's Daniel Tenholder was able to wiggle out of trouble to avoid the series sweep.



Jacksonville State's Ben Tootle gets ready to unload a pitch earlier this season. Tootle had his best outing of the year against Austin Peay this weekend, pitching seven scoreless innings. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Team	OVC	Overall
<u>Southeast Missouri St.</u>	6-0	16-8
<u>Eastern Illinois</u>	5-0	17-5
<u>Jacksonville State</u>	4-2	15-10
<u>Eastern Kentucky</u>	4-2	14-8
<u>Murray State</u>	1-2	18-8
<u>Austin Peay</u>	2-4	10-16
<u>Morehead State</u>	1-5	7-17
<u>UT Martin</u>	0-3	9-13
<u>Tennessee Tech</u>	0-5	11-10

Gamecocks' 2B Bert Smith out for season

have even considered leaving Missouri for Alabama. When you have a chance to hit a sure stand-up triple, you don't hold out hope for the longshot homerun.

On the other hand, I think Kentucky's decision to let go of Billy Gillespie after two years was absolutely insane. Granted, everyone seems happy with the school's hire of John Calipari, and with good reason, I guess.

But to me, there's little if any difference in the two. Calipari is a slightly better recruiter (though his methods are allegedly shady at best) and Gillespie is a slightly better in-game coach.

This has been one of the worst NCAA Tournaments in a long time from a fan's perspective, at least to me. Chalk, chalk, chalk.

The only thing that will save it is Villanova (nearly impossible) or Michigan State (conceivable, I actually picked them to win it all in one of my brackets) cutting down the nets in Detroit.

But most think we are looking at a North Carolina vs. Connecticut national title game. And that's what should happen. I just hope a little of that March magic shines through — even though it would be in April — and we have at least one upset this weekend.

I do honestly believe that whoever wins the Michigan State/UConn game will win the final, even though everyone at ESPN is acting as if the last two games are merely a formality on North Carolina's walk to the title. I just think Izzo or Calhoun will coach circles around Roy Williams.

Has anyone ever received less attention for a consistent job well done than Tom Izzo? I say no.

If I, um, theoretically, had an offshore sportsbook account, I would make the following futures wagers on baseball:

Giants wins over 79.5
Braves wins over 83.5
Cubs wins under 91.5
Reds wins over 80.5
Brewers wins under 80.5
Nationals wins over 71.5
Reds win NL Central +1100

The Cubs are inexplicably the favorite to win the National League. Not only do

See "Staubs," page 6

morehead state

UT Martin

Tennessee Tech

1-5 7-17

0-3 9-13

0-5 11-10

Jacksonville State's Ben Tootle gets ready to unload a pitch earlier this season. Tootle had his best outing of the year against Austin Peay this weekend, pitching seven scoreless innings. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

Gamecocks' 2B Bert Smith out for season

By Al Muskewitz
Consolidated Publishing

JACKSONVILLE — Whenever Mother Nature allows Jacksonville State to take the field for its Ohio Valley Conference home opener against Austin Peay, the Gamecocks will do so without one of their stars.

Bert Smith, the school's all-time leader in stolen bases, had surgery on Wednesday to repair a torn labrum. The senior will miss the remainder of the 2009 season, but is expected to return, as he has a redshirt year available.

"I can't even tell you how much we're going to miss Bert," JSU coach Jim Case said. "It's not just how steady he is in the field, and it's not just how many bases he steals. Just being honest, it's a blow to us in so many different ways."

In the field in 2008, Smith made only five errors, giving him a .970 fielding percentage. At the plate, he hit .332 with 13 doubles and had only 20 strikeouts, second fewest on the team of anyone with at least 40 starts. His performance earned

him his second consecutive OVC first-team honor and a 2009 preseason all-conference nod.

While it was hard for Case to put into words how much Smith is missed, it wasn't hard for the Gamecocks' preseason All-American fireballer, Ben Tootle.

Tootle and Smith had been together for two seasons, and aside from Smith's accomplishments offensively, it was knowing the second baseman had his back that put Tootle the most at ease.

"He was my second baseman my freshman and sophomore year," said Tootle, who is slated to throw Game 2 of the weekend series. "He just fielded his position so well."

"I wanted every ball that was hit to go to second base."

If there is a ray of light for this stormy weekend, it will be that this is not the first series the Gamecocks (13-9, 2-1 OVC) will play without his services. Smith has been sidelined since March 10 (playing only seven games this year), giving the other Gamecocks ample time to grow into their new positions.

JSU has gotten Kyle Bluestein — back from injury — in right field, which allowed them to put Blake Seguin at third and move Heath Wall to second.

"We've had musical chairs in the infield," Case said, "but, defensively, I feel pretty good about it."

In the dugout, Case has been able to feel better about it, too.

Despite not being able to play, Case said Smith was adamant about going on the Gamecocks' annual spring road trip with the team. Smith shed his typical game-style personality to do everything within his power to help his teammates.

"The whole time he was a force in the dugout," Case said. "He wasn't just sitting, and that's Bert."

"It's been neat to watch him mature. For a guy that doesn't say a whole lot, to see him lead that way, it was a very neat thing."

Pittman back to business after career-threatening injury

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

After dominating Ohio Valley Conference hitters over the course of her junior season, Karla Pittman found herself on crutches, sporting a bulky knee brace throughout the 2008 campaign. Reduced to the role of a cheerleader, she watched from the dugout as the Jacksonville State softball team, her team, strung together the most storied season in school history. But, deep down, she knew something was missing. She belonged in the circle.

"I wish I could have been a part of it. Any athlete would have loved to have been a part of that," Pittman said of her team's championship run.

Unfortunately, the majority of Pittman's time wasn't spent with her teammates at University Field, preparing for the opposition. She was in the training room, stretching and flexing her knee. Physically, that's all she could muster. She couldn't run. She couldn't throw. She could simply hope that time and perseverance would allow her to play the game she loves once again.

The Injury

In the last game of her 2007 campaign, Pittman watched as a Tennessee Tech walk-off home run ruined



After sitting out last year, Karla Pittman has returned to form and currently leads the JSU's pitching staff with an ERA of 1.56. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com

the Gamecocks' chances at an OVC championship. She watched, knowing that she had thrown seven scoreless innings against the same team the night before.

But there is always next year, right? Not for Pittman, who started having

trouble with her knee during the fall of 2007.

"In the fall, she said that she would start walking and her knee would just give out," JSU softball coach Jana McGinnis said. "The doctors really didn't think it would be that serious

until they did an MRI."

Just a month before the start of her senior season, Pittman found out that the tip of her femur bone was dying and would require major surgery to fix. The injury was rare, similar to the one that cut Bo Jackson's Hall of Fame career short.

"Her femur bone was dying, which is unusual," McGinnis said. "They really didn't know how it happened. It's kind of the same thing that Bo Jackson had with his hip. His hip bone died and there was no circulation to it. It was just a freak thing."

"With her injury doctors said, 'We can't tell you if she will play again or not. We don't know. We just haven't had enough cases like this one.' But we knew that she was going to play again," McGinnis added.

The Rehab Process

Like many injured student-athletes, Pittman had to put in hours upon hours in the weight room with no guarantee of a full recovery. According to Jim Skidmore, Associate AD for Sports Medicine at Jacksonville State University, the rehabilitation process is extremely difficult for student-athletes and requires constant dedication from both a mental and physical

See "Pitt," page 6

JSU Men's Tennis Wins Seventh Straight Match

A brief look at the lesser-publicized sports around campus

From staff reports

The Jacksonville State men's tennis team (14-1, 3-0 OVC) won a 5-2 decision over Ohio Valley Conference rival Tennessee Tech (6-6, 2-1 OVC) to post its seventh straight win on Monday at the JSU Tennis Courts. JSU won the doubles point to carry a 1-0 lead into singles. Bernardo Bachino and Gustavo Holz downed Josh Girling and Mario Gutierrez, 8-2, at No. 2 doubles and Steffen Solomon and Chris Duke won 8-2 over Justin Kirstein and Oscar Pachon at No. 3 doubles. Eduardo Saratt cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 win over Alex Chen at No. 2 singles to put JSU ahead 2-0 before Bachino won 6-4, 6-2 at No. 3 over Girling for a 3-2 JSU lead. Duke's 7-6, 6-3 win over Pachon at No. 5 sealed the win while Solomon tallied JSU's final singles victory with a 0-6, 6-1, 6-2 win over Gutierrez at No. 6 singles.

The Jacksonville State women's tennis team won the doubles point before capturing five of six singles matches en route to a 6-1 win over Tennessee Tech (3-6, 2-2 OVC) on Monday at the JSU Tennis Courts. Eloah Lopes and Martin Dessbesell upended Alena Krutkina and Evgenia Yartseva, 8-2, at No. 2 doubles and Kristen Fuller and Kimberly Ferris defeated Joanna Corkern and Laura Porras, 8-2, at No. 3 to give JSU the doubles points. In singles, Dessbesell won 6-1, 6-2 over Krutkina at No. 2 and Rafaila Wenzel defeated Katie Barnhill, 6-0, 2-6, 6-2

Softball sweeps double-header against UT-Martin

By Jared Gravette
Assistant Sports Editor

It's probably safe to say that the UT-Martin pitching staff doesn't want to see Jacksonville State's Chrissy O'Neal step into the batter's box for the remainder of the season after her performance over the weekend.

The Dallas, Ga., native went 3-for-7 against the Skyhawks on Sunday, accounting for two home runs and three RBI, as the Gamecocks (21-9, 6-1 OVC) continued their dominance over Ohio Valley Conference opponents with a double-header sweep of UT-Martin.

The initial game of the series was canceled due to rain, but JSU came out raring to go on Sunday.

It took only two pitches for the Gamecocks to jump out in front in the opener, as O'Neal blasted a lead-off home run over the center field wall.

The Gamecocks would score in each of the next three innings to put the game out of reach.

A two-out double by Hillary Downs in the top of the second inning plated Meredith Sellers to put JSU up 2-0.

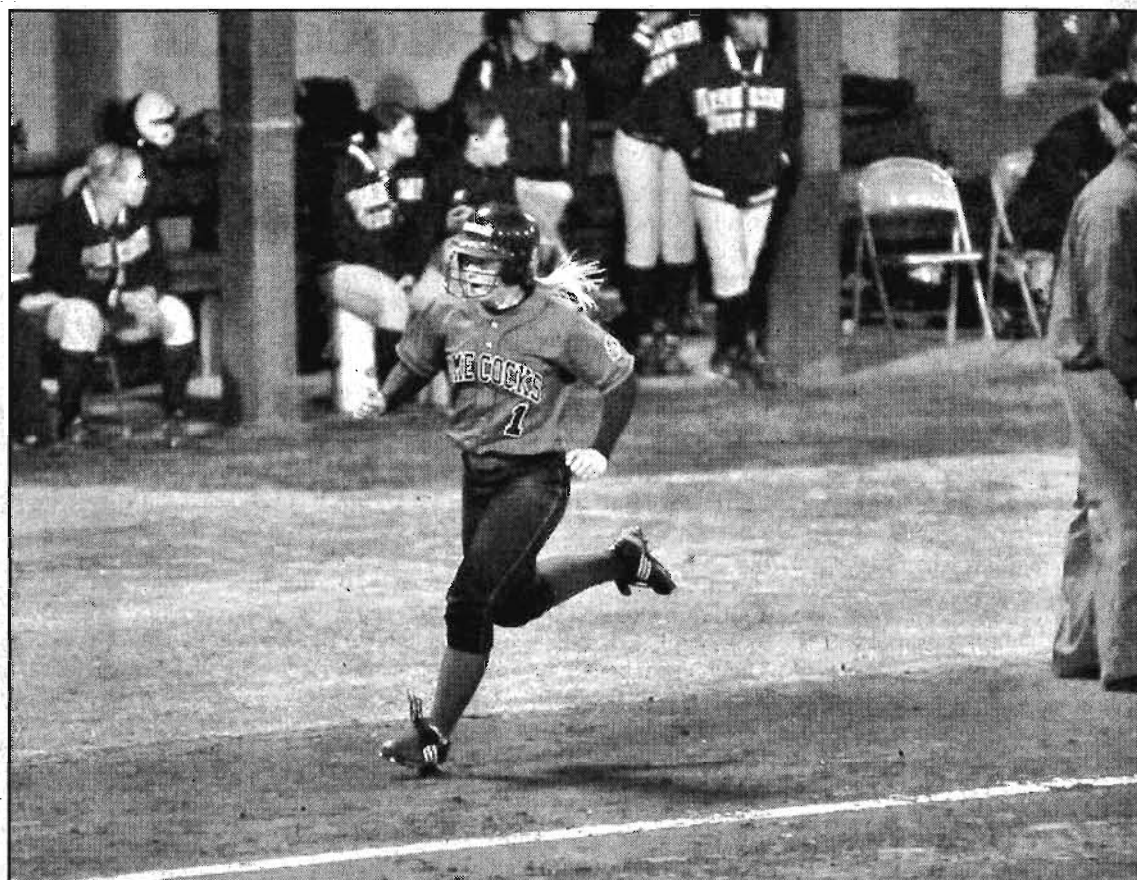
But the Gamecocks biggest inning came in the third, pushing three runs across the plate. Nikki Prier drove in the first run of the inning with a single through the left side. Jackie Jarman followed with an RBI of her own after an error by short stop Greer Long. The final run came across after a Mary Beth Ledbetter single.

Prier struck again in the fourth inning with a solo home run to left center field.

The Gamecocks' bats were silenced the rest of the way, but Karla Pittman was superb once again in the circle, pitching all seven innings for JSU, allowing only two earned runs to pick up her sixth win of the season.

The Gamecocks would get another excellent pitching performance in the nightcap of the double-header, as Ashley Eliasson carried a no-hitter into the bottom of the sixth inning. Eliasson pitched all seven innings for JSU, allowing only three hits and one earned run to pick up her eighth win of the season.

O'Neal got the Gamecocks' offense off and running once again in the nightcap. After getting hit



JSU's Chrissy O'Neal rounds third base after hitting a home run earlier this year against Kennesaw State. O'Neal earned OVC Player of the Week after hitting three home runs in four games last week. Photo courtesy of James Harkins / JSUFan.com / File

by a pitch, JSU's lead-off hitter stole second and advanced to third after a passed ball. Allie Barker would drive her in with a sac fly to center field.

The Gamecocks remained on top by a 1-0 margin until the top of the fifth inning. O'Neal led off the frame with a triple and later scored after a Kaycee Crow double. Crow would also cross the plate in the inning after a Prier sac fly.

JSU would add three more runs in the sixth after another O'Neal home run drove in two. O'Neal was awarded for her efforts on Monday, as she was named the OVC Player of the Week after hitting .429 and homering three times over a four-game stretch.

Prier capped off the series with a solo shot — her sixth of the season — in the top of the seventh. The junior from Raleigh, N.C., went 4-for-7 in the double-header with two home runs and four RBI.

The sweep extended JSU's winning streak over the Skyhawks to 16 games, dating back to 2005.

Prier and the Gamecocks will be in action again on Saturday, when they open a three-game OVC series at University Field against Southeast Missouri. The two will play a doubleheader at 1 p.m. on Saturday before closing the weekend with a single game at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

Pitt: Making progress on the long road back from knee injury

standpoint.

According to Skidmore, the first step in the rehab process is to allow the athlete to heal emotionally. It is very important to give them some space before putting them through the grinder of a strenuous workout regiment.

"We usually give them until tomorrow to feel

difficult to achieve.

"We get back into motion as soon as we can, trying to get the range of motion back," Skidmore says. "Years ago, when I got into this, we were in a bad habit of — even with a grade 2, or 3 ankle sprain — putting our athletes in a cast for two or three weeks and immobilizing them, thinking that

chore. And we have others that are just joys. They run over you trying to rehab," Skidmore says. "There are those that you have to stroke, and love, and pet on. It's a constant thing, but there are others that you tell what to do, and they do it."

"I think it is extraordinarily difficult to get back to the level of participation

trying to rush back to the game before you are ready.

"The one thing that I have seen as a coach is patience," McGinnis said. "You have to be patient with yourself. You can't rush yourself to get out there and be the superstar that you were. You have to believe, hey, I'll be back when my body gets healed."

hesitates before pumping his fist, signaling strike three. Pittman is back.

However, she still faces limitations. It has been over a year since she has thrown a softball, and rust quietly creeps into the equation. Pittman watches as the next two hitters trot to first base after she failed to put the

Ferris defeated Joanna Corkern and Laura Porras, 8-2, at No. 3 to give JSU the doubles points. In singles, Dessbesell won 6-1, 6-2 over Krutkina at No. 2 and Rafaila Wenzel defeated Katie Barnhill, 6-0, 2-6, 6-2 at No. 3. Julianna Renesto captured a 6-3, 6-3 win over Porras at No. 4 while Lopes upended Evgeniao Yartseva, 6-1, 6-0 at No. 5 and Fuller beat Corkern, 6-1, 6-0 at No. 6.

The Jacksonville State track and field team eclipsed two school, four personal bests and five season bests during the Alabama Relays on Friday and Saturday hosted by the University of Alabama at the Sam Bailey Track and Field Stadium.

Freshman Andrea Hoke finished second in the women's javelin with a life-time best of 42.59 meters (139' 8 3/4"), surpassing the JSU school record of 134-feet, 8-inches set by Marie Rosen-gren (2003). Her mark was one-meter shy of the NCAA Regional qualifying standard.

Sophomore Chelsea Denson tied her career-best clearing 10-feet, 6-inches to place fifth in the pole vault competition. Her teammate, Amber Wiley tied for fourth in the invitational pole vault competition on Friday with a vault of 11-feet, 9 1/2 inches. The mark is a career outdoor best for Wiley and breaks her own JSU outdoor record of 10-feet, 10-inches set last year.

The quartet of Kamiriel Wall, Takisha Parham, Shira Butler and Cle'Asha burks turned in a season-best 48.64 in the 4x400 relay.

Sophomore Veronica Citire-ag clocked a season-best 2:17.96 in the 800-meter run. Senior Ebony Brisky turned in a season-best 14.89 in the 100-meter hurdles and junior Tasheila Jones clocked a season-best 59.37 in the 400-meter dash.

Senior Megan Ziarek opened her steeplechase season with a time of 11:54 clocking, her best ever season opening time.

The Gamecocks return home to host the annual Gem of the Hills Invitational on Saturday.

athlete to heal emotionally. It is very important to give them some space before putting them through the grinder of a strenuous workout regimen.

"We usually give them until tomorrow to feel sorry for themselves and get their crying out of the way," Skidmore said. "You have until tomorrow to feel sorry for yourself and then you are going to work."

Work may not be the appropriate word when talking about what injured athletes go through on a day-to-day, week-to-week basis. On top of the hours that must be dedicated to school work, Skidmore says that a minimum of an hour and a half to two hours of rehab must be put in every day, six days a week.

"We try to give them a day off just to rest and recover from us because it is really intense," Skidmore said.

According to Skidmore, the most important part of the rehab process is regaining range of motion which is essential for the athlete to have a full recovery. Without it, muscles will deteriorate, making their return to the game that much more

difficult to heal emotionally. "Years ago, when I got into this, we were in a bad habit of — even with a grade 2 or 3 ankle sprain — putting our athletes in a cast for two or three weeks and immobilizing them, thinking that they would get well. There ligaments did get well, but in the interim, they lost muscle mass, strength and range of motion."

According to Skidmore, the only way to make a full recovery is to work the rehabilitation process properly, and Pittman is a prime example of this.

"She rehabbed her ass off," Skidmore said of Pittman. "If everybody I have to rehab rehabbed like Karla, it would make my job a whole lot easier. She was a beast in rehab."

On top of the physical demands of the rehabilitation process, mental factors have become increasingly important over the years.

According to Skidmore, an athlete's personality and mental drive play a huge part in whether or not the rehab process will be successful.

"We know that if certain athletes get injured that they are going to be a rehab

are those that you have to stroke, and love, and pet on. It's a constant thing, but there are others that you tell what to do, and they do it."

"I think it is extraordinarily difficult to get back to the level of participation that is expected," Skidmore added. "Much of the process is mental. First, you have to overcome being out of participation. Some struggle with this more than others, but for some it makes for a great motivator."

For Pittman, not being able to compete and go through her usual routine in workouts was a difficult process to get used to. She spent six weeks on crutches and wore a knee brace for four months before getting the green light to resume regular training throughout the spring.

"It was really frustrating because I'm used to lifting a lot with my legs," Pittman said. "I had to start out really slow with my leg. I did a lot of stretching and a lot of flexing."

For McGinnis, who has coached softball for 16 years, the most important mental factor to consider is staying patient and not

McGinnis said. "You have to be patient with yourself. You can't rush yourself to get out there and be the superstar that you were. You have to believe, hey, I'll be back when my body gets healed."

The Return

With the rehab process behind her, Pittman spent the summer working out in an attempt to return to competition this spring.

"Over the summer, I really worked out hard on Monday, Wednesday and Friday," Pittman said. "Then I ran Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Saturday and Sunday."

"Man, she worked hard over the summer," McGinnis added. "She came back. Her legs were cut. Her body and her physique changed. She has more muscle tone in all of her body. There was no doubt that she had worked with a personal trainer."

Fast forward six months. Pittman stares in at catcher Kaycee Crow, reflecting on how hard it was to get back to the games she loves. She goes through her windup and fires the ball into the catchers' mitt. The umpire

limitations. It has been over a year since she has thrown a softball, and rust quietly creeps into the equation. Pittman watches as the next two hitters trot to first base after she failed to put the ball in the strike zone.

"Pitt worked so hard over the summer, and I think she expected to step right in where she left the field at Tennessee Tech in the championship game. She expected to be at that level and her pitching to be that good. That's not reality. Reality is that she sat out a year," McGinnis said.

Despite her early season struggles with control, Pittman quickly turned things around and is now performing at the same level she did two years ago. In 2007, she finished with a 21-10 record and posted a 1.57 ERA.

So far this season, Pittman has already won six games in only seven starts and has a 1.56 ERA, which leads the team.

All the work, the rehab, the struggle are now in the past and there is nothing to do but move forward.

Staubs: Auburn finally got better than Bama, but Grant changes that

people need a history lesson, they also might want to take a gander at the rosters of the top teams in the NL East and particularly the NL West. The Dodgers are the most well-rounded team in baseball and the Diamondbacks have the pitching to win a series against anybody, especially now that their lineup is reasonable.

I love the Reds this year. I can't express that enough. Aaron Harang is going to have a bounce-back year, Volquez and Cueto are on the verge of becoming the best young 1-2 punch outside San Francisco, and that lineup has no holes. Plus the rest of that division is pretty sorry.

If you play fantasy baseball and haven't drafted yet or can con whoever owns him into a trade, get your hands on Matt Cain. I was way ahead of the curve on the whole Tim Lincecum thing (there are perks to my strange fascination with the University of Washington), and I'm telling you, Cain will have just as good a year as Timmah this year.

I also like the Braves this year. Not really a fan — I'm on the not-so-crowded Royals bandwagon — even though I will be attending some games. I expect Jeff Francoeur to live up to the expectations he created after his first year, and I really like a lot of their acquisitions. Plus I don't have enough space to describe the qualities of Brian McCann.

(Mr. Gravette likes that kid even more than I do.)

Oh, and I would also take the Cleveland Cavs -110 to win the Eastern Conference, which I simply cannot see losing under any circumstances. After sweeping the No. 8 seed and dispatching of the Hawks/Heat in the second round, the Cavs will be able to watch the Celtics and Magic play a six or seven game physical series.

Add in the best player on the planet and home court ... this should be at least -200.

I must say, I'm an Oklahoma fan, and while there is no doubt that Blake Griffin is the best

player in college basketball and the best NBA prospect — and it was mildly enjoyable watching him destroy Tyler Hansbrough last weekend despite the rest of the Sooners not showing up — but I would make a real strong case for Ty Lawson for Player of the Year.

I've never seen as dynamic a player in college basketball. He's kind of like Tyus Edney from UCLA's mid-90's teams, but even faster and with a better shot.

If Carolina is able to do what I think they won't, it will be because Lawson carries them. Hansbrough, Green and Ellington are very good players, and there are a couple of other good players, but Lawson is the only transcendent player left in the tournament.

Izzo or Calhoun, as great as they are, will prepare their team for North Carolina better than North Carolina will prepare for them, but Lawson has a way of making game plans become moot.